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DRAFT DECISION

(Submitted by Denmark)

96/xx. Implementation of the successor programming arrangements

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report contained in document DP/1996/3, of comments made by delegations thereon and of the clarifications provided by the Administrator during the discussions of the report and requests the Administrator to ensure that the guidelines be in full conformity with those clarifications, which will also be contained in the report of the first regular session 1996, and that the revised guidelines be communicated to the Executive Board as soon as possible, and no later than at the annual session 1996;

2. Reaffirms that the country cooperation framework is the central document in the country programming process and that the recipient Government has the primary responsibility for the formulation of the framework, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, as well as for the coordination of all types of external assistance, in order to integrate the assistance effectively into its development process;

3. Stresses the importance it attaches to the mechanisms for coordination at the country level established in General Assembly resolutions 47/199 and 50/120 and reaffirms that the country cooperation framework should be formulated in accordance with those resolutions;

4. Notes that the country cooperation framework should be based on a realistic estimate of income from both core and non-core resources;

5. Decides that the United Nations Development Programme, upon request of the recipient country, should facilitate, at the earliest possible stage in the programming process, an exchange of views reinforced by a brief concept paper,

prepared by the Government, outlining preliminary ideas regarding programme priorities and strategies. This would take place with relevant partners at the country level through, for example, appropriate field-level committees and meetings, and as appropriate, with the Executive Board;

6. Requests the Administrator to submit, in a timely manner, the country cooperation framework as formulated by the country concerned, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, to the Executive Board for approval. The country cooperation framework should be based on national plans and priorities, country-specific circumstances and lessons learnt from previous cooperation as well as the mandate and programme priorities of the United Nations Development Programme. The country cooperation framework shall outline the overall strategy proposed for United Nations Development Programme cooperation. The country cooperation framework should set measurable targets where possible for the results and impact expected as well as outline management arrangements for execution and implementation, coordination, monitoring and review as well as a resource mobilization strategy and target for all resources managed by the United Nations Development Programme;

7. Decides that country cooperation frameworks will be approved as submitted, without presentation and discussion, unless at least five members have informed the secretariat in writing before the meeting of their wish to bring a particular country cooperation framework before the Executive Board. The secretariat will inform all members of the Board of which country cooperation frameworks will be presented to the Board;

8. Requests the Administrator to submit to the Executive Board at its second regular session 1996 a proposed format and timing for review reports, based on information generated from the new system for programme monitoring, periodic review and oversight, the actual assignment of resources, available relevant evaluations and the periodic reviews of the operational activities of every country office, that will enable the Board to review the actual implementation of the country cooperation framework in each country and lessons learnt as part of the preparation for the next country cooperation framework;

9. Decides that the Administrator will submit the review reports to the Executive Board, highlighting a representative sample of reports covering a range of programmes that are representative in terms of quality and geography. If necessary, the Board will then provide guidance on future programming;

10. Requests the Administrator to make available to members of the programme, on a regular basis, lists of available reports on periodic reviews and evaluations of country programme activities;

11. Decides that the arrangements described above will take immediate effect, except those contained in paragraph 7, which will take effect in January 1997, and will be reviewed at the annual session 1997 in light of experience gained therefrom, also taking into consideration programming arrangements in the United Nations Children's Fund.